

**West Nile Virus Newsletter**

This is an electronic publication designed to keep you informed on issues of interest related to West Nile virus (WNV) in Washington, and provide current information to assist you in developing a response plan to WNV in your jurisdiction.

WSU Pesticide Training Season Is Underway

Submitted by: Carol Ramsay, Pesticide Education Specialist, Washington State University

WSU Pesticide Education Program is offering pesticide pre-license training for people interested in becoming certified in the public health category (or aquatic category). The training will be held concurrently with our regular pre-license courses at the following locations.

Pasco

Jan. 12 - Laws and Safety Training (8:00 – 4:30)

Jan. 13 - Public Health/Aquatic 12:30-4:30

Jan. 15 - WSDA Examination Session 12:30- 4:30 (No need to enroll in class for this day. If enrolled, show up for the exam.)

Tacoma

Jan. 13 - Laws and Safety Training (8:30 – 4:00)

Jan. 15 - Public Health/Aquatic 8:30-11:30

Jan. 15 - WSDA Examination Session 12:30- 4:30

If someone is currently licensed, they only need to attend the session for public health/aquatic. If someone does not hold a current license, they will need to pass the laws and safety exam and need attend day one of the workshop.

For more information, to signup online, or to download a registration form, visit <http://pep.wsu.edu/> or contact:

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Surveillance News

The following table summarizes WNV surveillance by county through December 8, 2003. Additional surveillance activity not shown is the collection and species identification of 1,531 mosquito samples from 35 counties.

County	Horses		Birds		Sentinel Flocks		Mosquito Pools	
	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Postive
Adams	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Asotin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benton	2	0	21	0	435	0	260	0
Chelan	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Clallam	2	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	3	0	5	0	0	0	11	0
Columbia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	0	0	11	0	0	0	32	0
Douglas	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Ferry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Grays Harbor	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Island	0	0	47	0	0	0	5	0
Jefferson	0	0	19	0	0	0	3	0
King	4	0	146	0	0	0	0	0
Kitsap	3	0	30	0	0	0	24	0
Kittitas	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Klickitat	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	1	0	22	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mason	1	0	21	0	0	0	0	0
Okanogan	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Pend Oreille	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce	9	0	98	0	0	0	227	0
San Juan	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0
Skagit	1	0	39	0	0	0	0	0
Skamania	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Snohomish	7	0	194	0	0	0	14	0
Spokane	9	0	16	0	0	0	3	0
Stevens	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	2	0	69	0	0	0	0	0
Wahkiakum	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Walla Walla	3	0	8	0	0	0	1	0
Whatcom	4	0	48	0	0	0	0	0
Whitman	3	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Yakima	7	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	72	0	901	0	435	0	582	0

First Idaho Human Case of West Nile virus Illness

State and local agencies investigate unusual alligator connection

Laboratory results have identified Idaho's first probable human case of WNV acquired within Idaho's borders. The man works with a Twin Falls County farm; his only known exposure to the virus came when he worked with sick alligators later determined to be carrying the virus.

Health officials have not determined how the man picked up the virus. He does not recall being bitten by mosquitoes, by far the most common way in which humans pick up the disease. However, his recent work involved using bare hands to handle ill juvenile alligators that later were identified as carrying the virus. The alligators were being raised at a local aquaculture farm for their meat and hides.

The juvenile alligators he handled were part of a shipment of 1,000 alligators imported from Florida in September. The animals, imported legally, became ill almost immediately on arrival, according to the farmer. Hundreds of the alligators died before a connection to WNV was made.



Geothermal water is an excellent environment for alligators in southern Idaho.

The man, in his 40s, has completely recovered. Lab tests conducted at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Bureau of Laboratories and the Centers for Disease Control were positive for WNV.

For the entire Idaho news release go to [Idaho WNV](#).

West Nile virus Sells Voters on Mosquito Control in Colorado

Districts around the state vote to pump more tax money into mosquito abatement

By Coleman Cornelius, Denver Post Northern Colorado Bureau

Leah Johnson wanted to get rid of blood-sucking bugs around her neighborhood and children's school, where a sign warned "Beware of Mosquitoes" and her 8-year-old daughter routinely got 30 new bites every weekday.

Then WNV hit Colorado.

And fellow voters in Mesa County, fearing a potentially deadly virus, embraced Johnson's two-year quest for an expanded mosquito-control district on the outskirts of Grand Junction. They agreed on November 4 to pump more tax money into the district.

The Mesa County district and another in La Plata County will use newly approved property-tax increases in their battle of the bug during next summer's WNV season.

Even as Colorado contends with a brutal influenza season, several communities already are mapping mosquito habitat and eyeing emergency funds as they heed health officials' warnings to prepare now for the WNV onslaught that is expected to return with hungry insects. The Mesa County district is among those readying for WNV in summer 2004, when many public-health officials expect the outbreak to worsen on the Western Slope.

"I believe West Nile propelled the general population," said Johnson, 35, who lives in East Orchard Mesa on Colorado's Western Slope and pushed for the expanded mosquito-control district around Grand Junction. "That's a fairly substantial part of the thinking of the voters, and the reason they passed it. People are scared."

Colorado - known more for its mountains than its mosquitoes - unexpectedly became the nation's WNV hot spot this year, confirming 2,771 cases of human infection and 53 deaths. That's the highest number of human cases and deaths recorded in the nation since WNV emerged in New York in 1999. State health officials are still working to confirm all the illnesses.

"You should be discussing plans for mosquito control," John Pape, the state's point man on West Nile virus, is telling communities. "This was a bad virus - it made a lot of people sick this year, and we're going to have to deal with it next year."

(The entire article can be found at [The Denver Post](#).)

Article Submission

We are interested in receiving articles for future publications of the WNV newsletter. Please submit articles to Tom Gibbs, tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov.

Community Comments

Let us hear your comments on this newsletter, your needs, or things you would like to see, by sending them to Marianne Guichard, (360) 236-3391 or marianne.guichard@doh.wa.gov.

WNV Web Resources

Washington State Department of Health www.doh.wa.gov/wnv
Center for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>
Washington State University Cooperative Extension <http://wnv.wsu.edu/>
Cornell University, Center for Environment <http://www.cfe.cornell.edu/erap/WNV>
Washington State Department of Agriculture
<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm>

DOH Contact List for West Nile Virus

General Public Toll-Free Hotline 1-866-78VIRUS

Publications: Brochures/Response Plan/Fact Sheets

Laura Harper, (360) 236-3380, or laura.harper@doh.wa.gov.

Surveillance: Mosquito

Jo Marie Brauner, (360) 236-3064, or jomarie.brauner@doh.wa.gov.

Surveillance: Dead bird surveillance and general WNV response

Tom Gibbs, (360) 236-3060, or tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov.

Surveillance: Horses, case reporting, laboratory assistance

Dr. John Grendon, (360) 236-3362, or john.grendon@doh.wa.gov.

NPDES: Training, technical assistance

Ben Hamilton, (360) 236-3364, or benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov.

WNV in Humans: Clinical information, case reporting, and laboratory testing

Call your local health jurisdiction or DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology,
(206) 361-2914 or (877) 539-4344.

Assistance with news releases and media response

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